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XL.—*Ornithological Notes made in the Straits Settlements and in the Western States of the Malay Peninsula.*
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(Continued from p. 395.)

ARACHNOTHERA LONGIROSTRA (Lath.). The Small Spider-hunter.

My only specimen was shot in the neighbourhood of Malacca.

This bird is very like, if not identical with, Blyth's *A. pusilla*.

ARACHNOTHERA CHRYSOGENYS, Temm.

My specimens are from Malacca and Jahore.

ARACHNOTHERA MODESTA (Eyt.). The Large Spider-hunter.

Probably fairly plentiful, as I bought several skins from the Malacca collectors.

Once, during May, I myself shot one near Enggar, a small village on the left bank of the Perak river, and distant about 140 miles from its mouth. I was returning to Kuala Kangsar, after a few days' trip up stream, and had passed a most

uncomfortable night, lying in the bottom of a very narrow and extremely leaky canoe, drawn up on a sand bank in mid-stream; and, to quote from my note-book, "when I awoke, a thick white mist hung over the river, saturating every thing, like rain; but as day broke this gradually cleared off; so, wading ashore, I struck into the jungle along one of the many pig-tracks leading inland. Before I got far from the river I noticed a small plainly-coloured bird clinging to a pendent creeper, fluttering its wings and uttering a shrill piercing cry, and, on shooting it, found I had killed a specimen of *A. modesta*. On dissection it proved to be a female. Length $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, bill along ridge $1\frac{1}{2}$; irides brown; legs and bill flesh-colour, upper mandible of latter dusky; upper parts, wings, and tail yellowish green; feathers of the last dark-tipped, and having a white spot on one web; feathers of the crown scaly and dark-centred; underparts pale green. It had been feeding on beetles."

ÆTHOPYGA SIPARAJA (Raffl.). The Scarlet Honey-sucker.

Though I *saw* this brilliantly coloured bird on two occasions, once on Pulo Battam, once on Pulo Oobin, islands near Singapore, I am only able to record as actually obtained a single specimen, a male, shot by a brother-officer among some cocoa-nut trees near Bukit Timah, on 2nd of August, 1879. There were a pair of them picking out insects from among the cocoa-nuts; those I saw on the islands were similarly employed.

CHALCOSTETHA INSIGNIS (Jard.).

Swarms wherever there are cocoanut-plantations, particularly if they be on the sea-shore. During September 1879 I saw literally hundreds of these Honey-suckers among the cocoa-nut trees at Tanjong Katong, Singapore. I also at different times got many specimens in Pulo Battam, Pulo Oolin, Province Wellesley, and Malacca.

In Singapore a favourite resort of mine was a plantation near Tanglin, where I passed many an afternoon among these little birds, which were so plentiful that I had every opportunity of observing them and their ways, as flitting from tree

to tree they dodged about among the clusters of cocoa-nuts, at one moment hanging head downwards, searching among the leaves and stalks for flies, spiders, and other small game, the next, hovering with quickly fluttering wings to pick out of its hiding-place some insect not otherwise to be got at. The male has a shrill piping note, and is far the most beautiful of the sexes, the female being dull-coloured and without the rich metallic markings. During August I noticed that the young were in great numbers, and saw some being fed by the parent birds; but even without that proof of their youth, they can be distinguished by their dingy plumage, and by the males having but faint signs of the metallic colouring of the mature bird. Their irides are smoky brown.

Of course, at a little distance, it is impossible to tell the immature birds from mature females.

In my note-book I find :—

“Singapore, 23rd Sept. 1879. With K—— and R—— I went by steam-launch to Tanjong Katong, where we spent the morning among the cocoa-nut trees collecting Honey-suckers. The more common kinds, *C. insignis*, *A. malaccensis*, and *C. pectoralis*, were plentiful enough; but nowhere could I see one of the bright scarlet species, *Æ. siparaja*, which K—— shot near Bukit Timah last month; apparently it is rare.

“I shot several females of *C. insignis*, very unlike their handsome mates; they were $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, bill at front $7\frac{1}{10}$; head and upper parts dull grey, tinged on the back and wings with yellowish green; tail deep steel-blue, tipped with white; abdomen pale yellow.”

Again :—

“Changie, Singapore, 8th Jan. 1877. Today I shot a most beautiful Honey-sucker, *C. insignis*; three of them, apparently a male and two females, were sitting on a dead bough, spreading out their wings, preening their feathers, and most thoroughly enjoying the morning sun. I shot the male; but he fell into the thick jungle, and, being such a tiny bird, it was a long time before I could find him.”

CINNYRIS HASSELTII.

Certainly rare, as I never saw it in any of the Malaccan or Singapore collections, and only once got it myself, viz. in January 1877, near Kwala Kangsar, Perak. Mine was a male, a perfect marvel of rich metallic colouring.

Dr. Stoliczka mentions having obtained this Honey-sucker in Province Wellesley and Penang.

I know Penang Hill to be a particularly good locality for collecting Cinnyridæ, and expect that this species is more plentiful there than anywhere else in the Strait, though, having stayed but a few days on the island, I cannot speak from personal experience.

ANTHREPTES MALACCENSIS (Scop.).

Common in the gardens of Singapore; also, like the other Honey-suckers, partial to cocoa-nut groves, where insects are abundant. At Singapore it was very plentiful in the neighbourhood of the barracks; but I also got specimens in all the western States of the peninsula.

They flit about the trees, searching among the clusters of nuts for insects.

ANTHREPTES SIMPLEX.

My specimens are all from Malacca.

ANTHREPTES HYPOGRAMMICA, Müll.

All mine are Malaccan.

CHALCOPARIA SINGALENSIS (Gm.).

Very common in Malaccan collections; but personally I shot very few specimens.

CINNYRIS PECTORALIS, Horsf.

Fairly plentiful throughout the Straits. I frequently shot specimens on the island of Singapore, also got several from Malacca. The following notes are from my book:—

“Tanglin, Singapore, 18th April 1879. Just in front and within ten yards of the verandah running round our quarters, a pair of Honey-suckers have built their nest, a long bottle-shaped structure of moss, cobweb, and other soft materials, suspended from the end of a branch quite thirty feet from the

ground. The birds are continually hunting under the eaves of our bungalow, picking insects out of the thatch, and returning with them to the nest; so I suppose it contains young. This morning I timed one of the parent birds make three visits to the nest, with its bill full of insects, in less than a minute. They are *Cinnyris pectoralis*, Horsf. I often have excellent chances of examining them, as they frequently flutter about the verandah within a couple of paces of where I stand. I do not like to molest them while rearing their young, but after the nestlings have flown will cut down the nest."

Again, I find:—

"Singapore, 26th April 1879. This morning I stood close to, and watched for a long time, a young Honey-sucker which was flitting about a shrub in front of our Orderly room. It was scarcely able to fly, certainly not more than a few feet at the time; its upper parts were dull brown, underparts yellow, no metallic markings. I approached within arm's reach of it, when the parent bird got very excited and fluttered round, piping shrilly; it was a *Cinnyris pectoralis*, the same as those which have built in front of our Mess."

DICÆUM CRUENTATUM (Linn.).

Fairly plentiful. I obtained it in Singapore, Malacca, and Perak; and I see Jerdon says it is abundant in Assam, to the north of the peninsula. On 13th June 1877 I shot a pair which were flitting about a durian tree close to my hut at Kwala Kangsar.

DICÆUM CHRYSORRHÆUM, Temm.

I shot one of these tiny Flower-peckers among the coconut trees bordering the Bukit-Timah road, Singapore, 10th August 1879.

It is plentiful in the collections at Malacca, as are most of the small brightly coloured Honey-suckers and Flower-peckers, on account of their selling well; but now that the fashion of their being worn in ladies' hats has gone or is going out, it is to be hoped that so many will not be killed as hitherto.

PRIONOCHILUS PERCUSSUS (Temm.).

All my specimens are from Malacca.

PRIONOCHILUS MACULATUS (Temm.).

As with the last, all from Malacca.

LANIUS BINTET, Horsf.

The *L. schach* of Linnæus.

I once saw this Shrike in Singapore; further east it is common.

I shot a great many among the Kowloon Hills, on the mainland near Hong Kong, where it was exceedingly plentiful, its favourite post being the topmost spray of one of the stunted firs which are sparsely scattered over the hill-sides; it was a particularly noticeable bird on account of its harsh cry.

LANIUS CRISTATUS, Linn.

I occasionally came across this Shrike in Singapore. A specimen I got at Malacca is slightly under 8 inches in length.

LALAGE TERAT (Bodd.).

This Black-and-white Bulbul, as we used to call it, is common in Perak and Singapore, breeding in both places.

In my notes I wrote as follows:—

“Singapore, 19th July 1879. Today I shot one of the black-and-white-plumaged birds, *L. terat*, which I so frequently saw on the open ground bordering the river near Kwala Kangsar.

“Singapore, 1st Sept. 1879. The young of the pied *Lalage terat* are now about our garden in front of the Mess, and make a most strange plaintive noise, like a child crying; in appearance they resemble the parent birds, but are not nearly so distinctly marked, and are considerably mottled.”

TEPHRODORNIS GULARIS (Raffl.).

I got a specimen of this Wood-Shrike from a Portuguese collector at Malacca.

GRAUCALUS SUMATRENSIS, Müll.

I saw some specimens of this bird obtained in Jahore ; personally I only once met with it in the jungle.

During August 1877 I was one of the party which accompanied H. H. The Maharajah of Jahore up the Moar river to a meeting of the chiefs at Sagamet. On the 8th of August, after travelling up stream all through the day, we stopped about sunset at Bukit Kopong, a village on the left bank, for a bathe and some dinner, before which I wandered into the jungle for an hour with my gun, and got several birds then new to me, among others a grey Crow-like bird, *G. sumatrensis*, which was sitting on a tree close to some Malays' huts.

PERICROCOTUS FLAMMIFER, Hume.

I have a pair of these beautiful Minivets, shot on 19th August 1879, on Gunong Pulai, Johore, by Mr. Davison's collector.

DISSEMURUS PLATURUS (Vieill.).

This Drongo Shrike, or King Crow, as it is commonly called, is plentiful in the peninsula ; and I also got several on the islands of Singapore, Battam, and Oobin ; it is found in considerable numbers on Penang hill.

In the undisturbed tracts of jungle towards the north of Perak I frequently came across this racket-tailed Drongo ; but it was some time before I managed to get a perfect specimen, as, though I shot seven or eight, in every case in falling through the trees the two long tail-feathers caught in the branches and were pulled out ; but at last, on the outskirts of Campong Saiyong, I came on one in the open, and brought it down as, with a peculiar jerky flight, it made for the jungle.

Later on I found out a piece of ground near Kwala Kangsar, covered by scrub, and surrounded with high jungle, where several of these birds were to be seen almost every evening, particularly after rain, hawking in mid air for insects.

The above-mentioned specimen, shot on 8th April 1879, measured 19 inches in length ; but the outer tail-feather on

each side projected 7 inches beyond the others, was entirely without web, except on its terminal two inches, where the web is mostly on the inner side and has a peculiar twist; the bird, when flying, looked as if had behind it two long pliant wires with a black bob at the end of each.

The length of the outer tail-feathers varies in different specimens; in one of mine they project 9 inches beyond the rest of the tail, in another only 6 inches.

They breed throughout Western Malayana. A young bird which I shot on Bukit Timah, Singapore, on 19th July, had the feathers of the under surface of the wings, also the under tail-coverts, white-tipped; and the long outer tail-feathers were only just beginning to sprout; beak from gape $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch, tarsus $\frac{4}{5}$; irides red-brown.

With reference to its breeding in Perak my notes are:—

“Kwala Kangsar, 18th June, 1877. This evening, while stalking pig in the jungle near Kota Lama, I disturbed two young Drongos, *D. platurus*. They could scarcely fly; and I very nearly caught them, much to the annoyance of the old birds, which flew close round me, screaming loudly, in a state of the greatest excitement. The young were fully fledged, but wanted the long tail-feathers.”

MUSCIPETA AFFINIS, Hay. The Burmese Paradise Flycatcher.

Rare; at least I found it so, though there were generally a few in the Malaccan collections.

Early in June 1877, in the neighbourhood of Kwala Kangsar, I came on one of these Flycatchers, and followed it for a long distance without being able to get a shot. It was most provoking, not flying far at each flight, but, as soon as I got within eighty or ninety yards, taking to wing and keeping carefully out of range, and finally disappearing in thick jungle.

However, a few days later, on 18th June, I was more fortunate, getting an adult male in the beautiful white plumage. It was among the trees bordering the road from Kwala Kangsar to Bukit Gantang. Length to end of ordinary tail $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches; but beyond this the two central feathers projected 6

inches, the total length of the bird being $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; beak and eyelids pale lead-blue ; irides dark brown ; head, crest, neck, and throat glossy blue-black ; general plumage white ; inner webs of primaries, shafts of secondaries, shafts and edges of tail-feathers, black.

Another, which I got at Malacca, was $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches long to the end of the ordinary tail, total length $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches ; head and crest glossy blue-black ; napé and the underparts ashy grey ; dark and glossy on the throat, but becoming whitish on the abdomen ; tail and upper parts rich chestnut ; inner webs of wing-quills dusky. According to Jerdon this plumage is characteristic of the immature male.

LEUCOCERCA JAVANICA (Sparrm.).

I found this Flycatcher very common in all the gardens round Tanglin, Singapore.

PITTA MOLUCCENSIS, Müll.

This beautiful Ground-Thrush cannot be very rare, as, while stationed at Kwala Kangsar, I had a great many brought to me by the natives, who had caught them in snares. I kept some in my aviary for several months ; and they did well, feeding on rice, but never became at all tame.

One morning in March, while Snipe-shooting on the bushy ground on the bank of the Perak river, just opposite Kwala Kangsar, I caught a glimpse of a brilliant blue-plumaged bird as it flew into some thick bushes, fired, and found I had killed a specimen of this *Pitta*.

I also got specimens in Malacca and Larut.

PITTA GRANATINA.

It is hard to say which is the most beautiful of the Ground-Thrushes ; all are so handsome ; but this will compare favourably with any of them.

My specimens are all from Malacca and Moar districts.

PITTA CUCULLATA, Hartl.

During January 1877 I obtained one of these Ground-Thrushes, an adult, near Kwala Kangsar, Perak.

PITTA BOSCHI, Müll.

During January 1877 I got a pair of these beautiful birds near Kwala Kangsar, Perak.

MIXORNIS GULARIS (Raffl.).

"Singapore, 5th Aug., 1879. Shot a few small birds among the trees bordering the Bukit-Timah road, the first being a specimen of *M. gularis*, one of a party of eight or nine which were flitting along a hedge-row."

I shot another close to our Mess at Tanglin.

TURDUS RUFICOLLIS, Pallas.

Mr. Davison showed me a specimen of this Thrush which had been shot at Singapore. Personally I did not meet with it in Malayana, but shot one in North China, where I believe it is by no means a rare bird.

The following note relates to this bird :—

"3rd Dec., 1879, near Soo-chow, two days' journey from Shanghae. Today, while Pheasant-shooting, I put up a Thrush of a kind I have not met with before, so shot it. I think it is undoubtedly a female of *Planesticus ruficollis*, the Red-tailed Thrush of Northern Asia. It was by itself. Length 9 inches ; irides dark brown ; bill yellow at base and gape, dusky at tip ; legs brown ; upper parts dull brown, darkest on the tail and wings ; outer edges of wing-coverts whitish ; inner webs of tail-feathers (except two central ones), beneath the wings, the chin, throat, breast, and flanks rufous ; throat and breast covered with dusky spots ; under tail-coverts rufous, with white margins ; streak over eye pale rufous ; ear-coverts and the head dull brown."

CYANODERMA ERYTHROPTERUM, Blyth.

During May 1877, near Kwala Kangsar, Perak, I shot two small birds which were creeping about on the ground in a patch of thick jungle. At the time I did not know what to make of them, but afterwards identified them as of this species.

Top of head chestnut ; irides red-brown ; white superciliary streak ; bare skin round the eyes pale yellowish green ; upper parts dull brown ; underparts white, with brown streaks on

the breast ; legs flesh-colour ; basal half of the lower mandible yellow.

MALACOPTERUM MAGNUM, Eyt.

A specimen from Gunong Pulai, Johore, shot 25th August 1879, a male, measured about 6 inches in length. Forehead chestnut, nape black, upper parts dull red-brown, beneath glossy white, dusky on the breast.

DRYMOCATAPHUS NIGRICAPITATUS, Eyt.

Gunong Pulai, Johore, 9th August, 1879. A male ; length $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches, tarsus $1\frac{1}{2}$; crown and nape black, most of plumage red-brown, underparts bright rufous, throat white, cheeks ashy.

OTOCOMPSA ANALIS (Horsf.).

About the most common bird in the Straits, also very plentifully distributed throughout the native States ; in the Singapore gardens it simply swarms, and is easily known by the bright yellow feathers beneath its tail. It breeds during April and May.

At Tanglin, Singapore, I found a nest in a road-side hedge ; it was carefully concealed, but within a few feet of passing carriages. The eggs were white, blotched (but principally at the larger end) with red-brown.

One I shot at Singapore, on 25th December 1877, was $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. Irides dark brown. A female which I shot at Kwala Kangsar, Perak, on 23rd March 1877, was rather smaller than the above.

They feed on insects, and have a rather pleasing song.

IXUS PLUMOSUS, Blyth.

Late in September 1879 I shot a pair of these soft-plumaged Bulbuls in the low jungle bordering the sea-shore on Pulo Battam, an island near Singapore.

MICROTARSUS MELANOLEUCUS, Eyt.

Malacca. Description from the skin :—Length 7 inches. Entirely black, except the wing-coverts, which are creamy white.

RACHYPODIUS MELANOCEPHALUS (Gm.). The Fan-tailed Bulbul.

I have specimens of this Bulbul from Malacca, and also shot several in Perak.

In my note-book is :—

“Kwala Kangsar, 5th May, 1877. . . . While stopping to get a cocoa-nut at a Malay’s hut, some three or four miles from camp, I shot a small Bulbul which was flitting about near the top of a high tree.

OTOCOMPSA EMERIA (Linn.).

I heard of one of these Bubbuls being shot in the Straits, but myself never even saw it there. In South China it is exceedingly plentiful :—

“Hong Kong, 16th May, 1878. This morning I caught three young Bubbuls on the grass plot behind my quarters. They could scarcely fly, evidently but lately having left their nest. Putting them in a cage outside my window, the old birds soon found them out and brought them food, but made a great fuss if I went near. All day long they kept close to their young, and often settled within a few feet of me ; so I took down an exact description of them. Irides deep crimson ; bill black ; head, crest, moustache-streak, and band down side of neck jet-black ; cheeks white ; upper parts brown ; throat and underparts dull white ; under tail-coverts bright crimson. They are common about the gardens in Hong Kong.

“The young appear to be about a fortnight old, and are able to fly twenty or thirty yards. Their irides are dark brown, upper parts brown, underparts dull white, under tail-coverts chestnut ; length 4 inches. They have the white cheeks and dark crest of the mature bird.”

PHYLLORNIS ICTEROCEPHALA. The Malayan Green Bulbul.

By no means rare in the south of the peninsula—in fact, rather common in the country round Malacca ; but I seldom saw it in Perak. It is very like, but smaller than, Blyth’s *Phyllornis jerdoni*.

Length $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches. Irides brown ; legs plumbeous ; upper parts grass-green, tinged on the nape with yellow ; under-

parts pale green; chin and throat black; maxillary streak (or rather spot) purple; forehead and cheeks glossy yellow, fading into green on the back of the head; inner webs of quills dusky; shoulder-spot glossy azure blue; tail bluish green.

PHYLLORNIS JAVENSIS, Blyth. The Green Bulbul.

Though rather plentiful in Malaccan collections, I only once myself shot this handsome bird, viz. during August 1877, in Johore territory, at Bukit Kopong, about forty miles up the Moar river. While in the jungle, on the look-out for specimens, I saw a party of six or seven little green birds fluttering about the ends of the branches of a wild fruit-tree, and pecking at the blossoms. On shooting one it proved to be a most beautiful male Green Bulbul, in plumage exceedingly like *P. icterocephala*, except that its maxillary streak of purple was considerably longer; and it was also a larger bird, being 8 inches in length. Throat and face black; inner webs of wing-quills dusky; rest of plumage bright green, with a golden gloss, pale beneath.

The female is of duller plumage, is without the maxillary streak, and has the throat pale green instead of black.

IORA TYPHIA (Linn.).

I shot a great number of these birds in Perak, and occasionally came across one in Singapore. At first I took them for immature specimens of *Iora zeylonica* (Gm.), as they were all marked with black on the back and head, some very much so on the nape: but they varied a great deal in plumage; one I shot during June, at Kwala Kangsar, a male, had scarcely any black on the head or back, irides *white*, legs and beak plumbeous, tail greenish yellow, with a dusky tinge; but I cannot help thinking that this bird was a female, and that I made some mistake in registering it as of the other sex.

Another, a male, shot at Saiyong, Perak, on 23rd February, had the nape almost entirely black, irides dark brown, and the tail jet-black slightly tinged at its tip with yellowish green. This bird was $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length; outer edges of wing-feathers, and also the underparts, yellow, becoming

orange on the throat and breast ; wings black, barred with white, ends of the coverts white ; flanks covered with silky-white feathers.

Perhaps both *I. typhia* and *I. zeylonica* are found in the peninsula.

IORA VIRIDISSIMA.

One I got at Malacca was about 5 inches in length ; plumage dull green, yellowish on the abdomen ; patch on eyes and the outer edges of some of the wing-quills pale yellow ; wings black, tips of secondaries white, forming two parallel white bars across the wings ; tail black.

IRENA MALAYENSIS. The Fairy Bluebird.

This most richly coloured bird is fairly plentiful in the country round Mount Ophir, and is also found in Perak, Singapore, and on Penang Hill, but certainly cannot be put down as at all common.

I fail to see the difference between the Malayan Bluebird and the Indian species, *I. puella* ; but Jerdon, in his 'Birds of India,' says, "A race from Malayana differs in having the under tail-coverts reaching to the end of the tail, whilst in the Indian bird they are never less than $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches short of the tail." However, I have before me five specimens, four from Malacca, the other from Perak ; and not one of them has the under tail-coverts extending to the end of the tail. They are shorter than the tail by $\frac{2}{3}$ of an inch in each case. The following is the description of a male shot near Campong Buâya, in Perak, during January 1877 :—

Length 10 inches ; irides red ; legs and beak black ; upper parts and the under tail-coverts (the last $\frac{3}{4}$ inch short of end of tail) beautiful glossy blue ; underparts, wings, and tail deep velvety black.

A female from Malacca is of a dull blue colour, mottled on the head and back with cobalt-blue ; under tail-coverts cobalt-blue.

ORIOLOUS INDICUS. The Black-naped Indian Oriole.

Though not uncommon in Malaccan collections, I but once myself shot one, an adult female, at Tanglin, Singapore,

during the last week in September. It agreed exactly with Jerdon's description (B. of India, vol. ii. p. 109), except that the secondaries were narrowly (not broadly) margined with pale yellow. Being a female, the golden back was slightly tinged with green. The beak was pinky flesh-colour. The stomach contained berries.

COPSYCHUS MUSICUS, Raffl. The Magpie-Robin.

A most appropriate name, it having the pied markings and quaint manners of the Magpie, and the pleasing song of the well-known Robin Red-breast. It swarms throughout the west of the peninsula, being found everywhere along the mangrove-girt coasts, in the jungles of the interior, and about the roads and gardens of the settlements, though certainly most plentiful in the neighbourhood of civilization. It is a most pugnacious bird; and I have seen them fighting together so determinedly as to allow themselves almost to be caught before they would separate. They breed during April and May.

In my note-book is:—

“Kwala Kangsar, Perak, 23rd March, 1877. Today I got two new birds—that is, new to my collection—one of them a Magpie-Robin. When on the ground it reminded me forcibly of our English Magpie in miniature, the perky way it hopped along, flitting up its tail, bending back its head, and every now and then giving a pert bow, together with its black-and-white plumage, made the resemblance very noticeable.”

The young have their plumage much mottled with rufous brown. The colours of the male are much darker than those of the female.

CERCOTRICHAS MACRURA (Gm). The Shama.

Justly celebrated for its vocal powers; is found, though not plentifully, throughout the Straits. I got several specimens at Malacca and one at Tanglin, Singapore.

ORTHOTOMUS RUFICEPS, Less. The Tailorbird.

Common throughout the Straits. I shot it in Perak, also frequently saw it about the gardens in Singapore. It is a

lively little bird, continually on the move, hopping from twig to twig, and uttering its loud shrill notes.

This Tailorbird makes the same ingeniously constructed nest as the others of its kind. One of these, which I have before me, consists of a large leaf about 10 inches in length, of which the outer edges are drawn together and sewn with regular stitches, with what appear to be threads of tow or cocoa-nut fibre, probably the latter. A bag is thus formed; and its lower end is filled with fine bents and lined with fragments of cotton, making a soft receptacle for the eggs. A male shot at Tanglin, Singapore, on 6th September 1879, was 5 inches in length, tarsus $\frac{3}{4}$; beak flesh-colour below, dusky above, from gape to tip $\frac{8}{10}$; irides clear pale brown; head and tail rich chestnut; beneath silky white, tinged with buff on the flanks and ear-coverts; upper parts grey-brown, slightly tinged with yellowish green; inner margins of wing-feathers buff.

CISTICOLA CURSITANS, Frankl. The Fantail Warbler.

This tiny bird, identical with the European Fantail Warbler, is found throughout the Straits wherever there is open grass-country, or ground covered with scrub, particularly if it be low-lying and marshy. It is very plentiful in Singapore on those parts of the island where the jungle has been cleared and long "lalang" grass sprung up, with bushes scattered here and there. In my notes is:—

"Tangling, Singapore, 8th July, 1879. All this afternoon I was collecting small birds in the neighbourhood of Mount Echo—capital collecting-ground. Among the scrub bordering the paddy-fields, Grass Warblers, *C. cursitans*, were very numerous. I watched one of them for a long time, at one moment clinging to the top of a grass-stalk and singing with low, feeble, but melodious notes, the next flitting with an ascending series of jerks high up into the air, and uttering its shrill cry, *pitt! pitt! pitt! pitt!*, repeated over and over again, then suddenly ceasing as the bird dropped like a stone straight down into the grass. They seem to me to be exactly like the Fantail Warbler I knew so well in the Mediterranean, and which bred plentifully on the marshy land

near Gibraltar. Eggs I saw there were white, covered with small red specks; but they vary very much, if I remember rightly, some being of a uniform blue colour.

“During July I found a nest among the bushes on the waste land bordering the rifle-range at Tanglin; it was a substantial domed structure, built almost on the ground, at the bottom of a tuft of reeds, with many of the stalks regularly woven into it. Though very well hidden, I found it by carefully watching the bird, which got very excited whenever I approached, and so considerably helped me in finding its nest, which, however, was then empty, and afterwards deserted, probably because I slightly moved it when feeling for the eggs.”

BUDYTES FLAVUS (Linn.).

I own to being much puzzled by the Wagtails, their plumage varying so much according to age, sex, and the time of year.

In September 1877 I shot a Wagtail at Singapore, which I put down as of this species (*B. flavus*). It was a female, head and upper parts brown, tinged with yellowish green, wings dusky, outer edges of the coverts and secondaries greenish white, superciliaries white, beneath yellow, dusky on the breast and sides of neck. Then, again, during October and November 1879, thousands of Wagtails assembled every morning at daybreak on our gravel parade-ground, an open, elevated space, and a very favourite resting-place for passing birds; and these were most certainly migrating; so tired were they that they would hardly get out of one's way, much less be induced to fly any distance; besides they appeared only during October and November, generally in company with Plover, Pratincoles, and other migrants.

All these I thought to be *B. flavus*, till Mr. Davison told me they were *B. taivanus*. During November they were exceedingly plentiful in the paddy-swamps near Mount Echo, Singapore, and fed in such close company with the Sandpipers (*Totanus glareola*), that I obtained both birds at one shot.

CORYDALLA MALAYENSIS, Eyt.

Commonly to be seen on meadow-land, also along the ridges in the paddy-fields. I shot specimens in Perak and Singapore, putting them down as the Indian species (*C. rufula*, Vicill.) which they are exceedingly like; in fact, my specimens answer *exactly* to Jerdon's description of that bird ('Birds of India,' vii. part 1, page 232).

MELANOCHLORA SULTANEA, Hodgs. The Yellow-crested Tit.

I obtained this handsomely marked Tit in Malacca, also in Johore.

CORVUS ENCA, Horsf. The Malay Crow.

Mr. Davison tells me that this is the Common Jungle-Crow of the Malay States. I found it very plentiful in Perak, where it used to collect in great numbers and feed on the refuse from our camp; often two or three of them would attack a Pariah Kite which had secured a piece of offal, and buffet him until he dropped his prize, which his pursuers then fought for among themselves.

The way they collect in the course of a few minutes, when just before scarcely one is to be seen, is most strange.

One morning, I shot a crow just outside my hut at Kwala Kangsar, there not being half-a-dozen in sight at the time; but almost at once they arrived in dozens, flocking in from all directions, and making such a clamour that for the rest of the morning my hut was simply uninhabitable. I suppose they were abusing me for having shot their comrade, or perhaps lamenting his death; anyhow the noise they made was intolerable.

On the opposite side of the river, exactly in front of our camp, was a patch of cover some two or three acres in extent, where every evening at sunset hundreds of these birds used to assemble to roost; one of them I shot was $19\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length, beak at front along culmen $2\frac{1}{2}$, tarsus 2 inches, irides very dark brown, plumage black, glossed, particularly on the wings and upper parts with purple and green.

PLATYSMURUS LEUCOPTERUS, Temm.

On the 8th August 1877 I shot a pair of these birds near Bukit Kopong, on the Moar river. Their very loud, clear notes attracted my attention. At the time I was rather puzzled as to their species: their red eyes and the tuft at the base of the beak reminded me of the Drongo Shrikes, while the white markings of the wings gave them somewhat the appearance of exaggerated Magpie-robins. I also saw two which Mr. Davison's collector had shot in Johore.

CALORNIS CHALYBEIUS, Horsf.

This small Myna is very plentiful throughout the west of the peninsula; I obtained it in Perak and Malacca, and found it in Singapore during April and May.

Late in September 1879, with three friends, I landed on Pulo Nongsa to shoot pigeons, which were said to be plentiful there. None of the large black and white *Carpophaga bicolor* were even seen; but we got several of the common green kind (*Osmotreron vernans*); and the reports of our guns put up enormous flocks, regular clouds, of these Mynas: they had collected to roost among the bushes, with which the middle of the island was covered.

Frightened by our shots, they swept backwards and forwards across the island, skimming over the trees at a great pace; and once passing near, I fired into the thick of them, killing several, all in the uniform metallic-green plumage.

The following is from my notes:—

“Tanglin, Singapore, 1st April, 1879. When we were quartered here more than a year ago, the Spotless Starlings, as we call them, used to congregate in great numbers on the upper limbs of an enormous tree, dead and quite bare of all foliage, which stood a few hundred yards from our mess; this afternoon I found them as numerous there as formerly, and watched them building their nests, carrying straw and other soft materials into the holes in the upper parts of the tree-trunks, far out of reach, the lowest nest being at least a hundred feet from the ground, and the tree as smooth and branchless as the mast of a ship.

“ I managed to shoot a couple of the birds and, dissected them. Hitherto I thought the dark ones of uniform metallic-green plumage were all males ; but on examining these I found this not to be the case, the ovaries being very conspicuous in the dark-coloured bird, while in the other, of grey mottled plumage, I detected the testes, though they were very small. Their stomachs contained seeds, vegetable substance, and the remains of caterpillars.

“ *Descriptions :—*

“ No. 1. A female, length $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches, irides pale crimson, legs and beak black, plumage black, very richly glossed with metallic green, feathers of the neck very lanceolate.

“ No. 2. A male (immature), length 8 inches, irides, legs, and beak as in female, plumage very slightly glossed with green, upper parts dusky, the feathers edged with grey, underparts greyish white, the feathers dashed with dark central streaks.”

Every year, about the end of July, these birds collect in great numbers among the trees in the gardens round the bungalows at Tanglin, to feed on the berries ; on 31st July 1879 I shot several of them, some in the dark green, others in the dusky spotted plumage ; but the last were far the more plentiful. I think I am correct in putting down the birds of spotted plumage as young, both the sexes when adult assuming the uniform metallic-green plumage—and in saying that the irides of the immature birds are yellow, orange, or pink, increasing in intensity as the bird advances in age, until they become deep red in the fully-grown bird.

They assemble towards evening and roost in company, several flocks often occupying the same clump of trees.

EULABES JAVANENSIS (Osborne). The Hill-Myna.

This Myna is found in Perak, and in all the Straits' Settlements ; the Malay name for it is an imitation of the peculiar notes it utters.

“ Kwala Kangsar, Perak, 1st May, 1877. Near camp I noticed six large dark-coloured birds sitting on a conspicuous tree, uttering loud, clear cries ; so, creeping quietly

through the jungle, I got within range and shot one. It proved to be a Hill-Myna in its colours and markings very like but larger than *Gracula religiosa*, Horsfield."

PLOCEUS BAYA, Blyth. The Weaverbird.

Plentiful on Pulo Penang and the mainland; but I rarely saw it on the island of Singapore. In Perak it is very common, breeding from February to June, hanging its long, bottle-shaped nest to the upper branches of trees, generally selecting one standing in some isolated position, such as the middle of a paddy-swamp. I noticed that, as a rule, they built in colonies; and there was one near Kwala Kangsar where over twenty nests hung, like huge pears, from a single tree standing alone in an open swamp, through which one had to wade knee-deep before the nesting-place could be reached.

On May 18, the birds were hard at work building; and standing motionless beneath the tree, I watched them for a long time. One nest, within fifteen or twenty feet of where I stood, appeared to be almost finished, even to the long, tubular entrance; and I fancy the hen must have been sitting inside, as I did not see her at all, though the male worked away most industriously, weaving long pliant stems of grass into the body of the nest.

Of this colony quite two thirds of the nests were of the bottle-shape, the remainder exactly like inverted baskets, suspended handle downwards. I cannot help thinking that these basket-shaped structures are simply unfinished nests, perhaps the "failures" of young birds new to the work, which have been rejected as being in some way unsuitable, as they only require the open space on one side of the handle to be filled in (as the repository for the eggs) to make them complete. That they are built specially for the accommodation of the male I do not believe, as, though I have watched attentively on several occasions, I never saw them used by either sex.

I found the lumps of clay, which are stuck inside many of the nests, most frequently in those of the basket-shape, but

can form no idea what they can be for. The theory mentioned, though not believed in, by Jerdon, that the birds stick fire-flies on these lumps of mud, so as to light up the inside of the nest by night, is palpably far-fetched; I never saw, or even heard of, the remains of fire-flies being found in the nests. In my book is the following note:—

“Kwala Kangsar, Perak, 6th March, 1877. While snipe-shooting, I found two curious nests hanging from a tree, at a height of about ten feet from the ground; they were within a few inches of one another, in shape like two gigantic pears, but with different entrances, the smaller being open below like an inverted basket, complete even to the handle, and made of fresh, green grass, while the other, of dry brown material, though also entered from below, had a long funnel leading to a chamber, in which were four young featherless birds and an addled egg, the latter about the size of a Linnet's, and white in colour. The tree on which the nests hung was alive with red ants, which most fiercely resented being disturbed.”

During June I saw a large flock of Weaverbirds on some paddy-ground near Kwala Kangsar. They were flitting about, pecking at the grass-seeds, and continually twittering, as one sees Goldfinches doing among the thistles. The heads of the males were golden yellow.

A young male which I shot on 16th May, while in the act of weaving grass into its nest, was 5 inches in length, irides dark brown, legs flesh-colour, tarsus $\frac{8}{10}$ inch, upper parts dull brown, the feathers margined with pale yellowish brown, top of head golden yellow, underparts dull white, throat and face blackish, breast and flanks rufous. The males have the head bright yellow during the breeding-season only; at other times both sexes have brown heads.

MUNIA MAJA (Linn.).

This little white-headed Munia is very common throughout the west of the peninsula, including the islands of Penang and Singapore. When the grain is ripe it is to be seen in countless numbers in the paddy-fields. On being disturbed

it rises with a feeble, twittering cry, the flocks whirling and twirling over the top of the paddy like clouds of dust on a road when the wind is blowing. It is commonly known in the Straits as the "cigar bird"—a capital name; for, when flying, its white head, brown body, and small size give it very much the appearance of a cigar with the white ash on it.

MUNIA ATRICAPILLA, Vieill.

Common, though not so much so as *M. maja*. Like that species, it congregates in large flocks. My note-book says:—

"Saiyong, Perak, 23rd May, 1877. To-day, on the low ground bordering Saiyong Jheel, I shot several Munias out of a large flock which rose from the paddy. They are very like *M. maja*, except that they have the head black instead of white.

"One of these, a male, is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, irides red-brown, beak plumbeous, head, neck, and upper part of breast black, upper tail-coverts golden-chestnut, rest of plumage chestnut, becoming dusky on the tail; its stomach contained a great many minute particles of quartz."

At first I thought this bird was *Munia rubronigra*, Hodg., which it much resembles; but that species has the middle of the belly, the vent, and the under tail-coverts *black* instead of chestnut.

MUNIA ACUTICAUDA, Hodg.

By no means rare during the winter months, or more correctly during the N.E. monsoon: it keeps in small flocks and frequents scrubby ground, not breeding till late in May.

Near Tanglin, Singapore, on 29th July, I found a nest of this Munia, a large, oval mass of bents, built in the crown of a beetle-nut palm; and the young birds, eight or ten in number, though perfectly able to fly away, were flitting about it; so I shot four, in a variety of stages of plumage. The one most decidedly marked was a male: its wings and upper parts were dull brown, becoming whitish on the cheeks and chin, feathers of the back and scapulars pale-shafted, those of the breast, flanks, and upper tail-coverts very prettily marked with alternate crescents of white and brown, abdomen dull white, irides chocolate.

The other three were similar to the above, but not so distinctly marked; two of them were almost without the crescentic markings on the breast and upper tail-coverts.

All four were slightly under $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, and had the legs plumbeous.

In April 1877, I shot an adult male out of a party of eight which were flitting about some bushes on the banks of the Perak river.

Breast clove-brown, the feathers edged and shafted with dusky white, abdomen dirty white, marked with dull brown, under tail-coverts brown.

While flying, the bird's white rump and pointed tail were very noticeable.

This species extends eastward to China. While I was stationed at Hong Kong, in May 1878, a pair of these *Munias* built among the top branches of a bamboo-clump, over 20 feet from the ground, but within two yards of my veranda; the nest was a large domed mass of dry grass and reeds, and without any soft lining.

Though apparently loosely put together, the nest and its contents were quite unharmed by a gale which bent the bamboo almost to the ground; on 3rd June there were four eggs, pure white in colour, as are those of all the *Munias*.

AMADINA ORYZIVORA (Linn.). The Java Sparrow.

Found only in Singapore, where it is common, particularly in the neighbourhood of the Botanical Gardens at Tanglin.

Not being met with on the mainland, I think there can be little doubt that it has been introduced into Singapore. Probably in the first instance it was confined in some of the aviaries in the Gardens, whence individuals having escaped have bred and firmly established their species on the island.

They are very tame, frequenting the roads and feeding in company with the common Sparrows (*Passer montanus*). During July 1879 two pairs had their nests under the eaves of our mess at Tanglin, and continually flew to and fro within a few feet of passers by.

PASSER MONTANUS (Linn.).

The common and only Sparrow of the Straits and Malay

peninsula. Its habits are much the same as those of our English bird ; like it, it frequents towns and villages, and is rarely seen in the jungle at any distance from habitations. It swarms in all the Settlements, searching among the horse-dung for grain, after the manner of its European brother, which, to a casual observer, it closely resembles.

It builds its large, loosely put together nest of straw and other materials under the eaves of houses or in holes in walls, often ousting the Javan Sparrow which may happen to have previously taken possession, as was the case with a pair which built under the roof of our mess-house.

P. montanus extends eastward to China. In my notes I find :—" Hong Kong, 1st Jan., 1879. All the Sparrows here appear to be of one species, the Mountain-Sparrow (*P. montanus*, Linn.). Today one flew into my window ; so, putting it in a cage for an hour, I had a good look at its markings, then let it fly away. It was in beautiful plumage. The white line passing round the back of the neck, and the black ear-patches, are the chief characteristics of the species ; and the chestnut markings seemed to me brighter than in the English *P. domesticus*. The sexes are alike."

TRERON NIPALENSIS, Hodgs.

I only once met with this Green Pigeon, at Kwala Kangsar, and never saw it in any of the Malaccan collections, so think it may safely be put down as rare.

TRERON CAPELLEI, Temm.

One I got from Malacca measured about 15 inches in length ; plumage dull green, pale and bluish on the abdomen and forehead, large patch on breast bright orange, wing-quills and outer tail-feathers dark slate-colour, the latter tipped with bluish white, wing-coverts narrowly edged with yellow, under tail-coverts cinnamon.

OSMOTRERON OLAX (Temm.).

Mr. Davison told me he found this Pigeon common in Singapore ; but such was not my experience, as I scarcely ever saw it there, while the larger species (*O. vernans*) was very abundant.

OSMOTRERON VERNANS. The Green Pigeon.

This handsome bird, the Green Pigeon of Europeans, the "Punei" of the Malays, is very plentiful throughout the country, particularly about the well-wooded islands to the south of the peninsula.

Towards evening they have a regular "flight," dozens passing over the same spot night after night for about an hour before sunset, on their way to roost in some favourite clump of trees; but if much fired at, after a few evenings they change their line.

By waiting for them I have often had very good sport, shooting them as they passed overhead, generally in parties of from five to ten, but occasionally in large flocks. Their flight is very rapid; and being thickly feathered, pretty straight shooting is necessary to bring them down, a stray pellet or two having but little effect, unless a vital part happens to be touched.

There is a tree in the Straits bearing a large hard berry, of which the Green Pigeons are very fond; and when ripe, the birds collect in great numbers to feed on it. One of these fruit-bearing trees grew just outside our mess-house at Tanglin; and by watching near it, we often got several shots in a very short space of time. In my notes I see that near this tree, on 10th September 1879, "I shot nine in about twenty minutes; nearly all were this year's birds, and capital eating. The males had not fully assumed the beautiful orange breast, that part being only tinged and mottled with different most delicate shades of purple and orange. Their craws were full of berries."

Even these young birds, with comparatively tender skins, took a lot of shot.

In Perak I found them breeding during March, among the bushes in the swampy valleys, making a small, flat, and loosely-put-together nest of dry twigs, usually at from 6 to 10 feet from the ground. The eggs were two in number, of a delicate pink colour, but white when blown.

O. vernans is very like, but smaller than, the Indian species (*O. bicincta*); the female is smaller and of duller plumage

than the male, and wants the bright orange patch on the breast, which in the case of the males seems to deepen in colour as the bird advances in age.

OSMOTRERON FULVICOLLIS, Wagl.

I did not meet with this species, but saw specimens which had been shot by Mr. Davison's collector in Johore.

CARPOPHAGA Aenea (Linn.). The Imperial Pigeon.

This magnificent Pigeon, the "Pergam" of the Malays, is plentiful throughout Western Malayana, keeping in parties of from five to fifteen or twenty.

It is not easily shot, being very wary and usually selecting the highest trees to perch on, often settling so high up as to be out of gun-shot. I got specimens in Perak, Larut, Malacca, Moar, Johore, Singapore, and the neighbouring isles.

On 9th August 1877, near Segamet, on the Moar river, I shot one while feeding on hard brown berries, in appearance rather like chestnuts, and of such a size as to make one wonder how the bird could possibly get them into its mouth. It was a female, length 18 inches; legs, irides, and nude orbits red, bill slaty, head, neck, and underparts delicate French grey, upper parts beautiful metallic shades of green and blue, wing-quills dusky, under tail-coverts chestnut.

Another, which I shot at Saiyong, a hundred miles up the Perak river, was rather smaller than the above.

CARPOPHAGA BICOLOR (Scop.).

At certain seasons this large black-and-white Pigeon is not uncommon among the wooded islands to the south of the peninsula.

During September and October 1879, while stationed at Singapore, I heard that these birds were plentiful at Pulo Mongsá, Point Miriam, and Tanjong Surat. I made expeditions to those places, but without success, not even seeing a single bird—though the natives were well acquainted with them and told me that sometimes they came in great numbers to feed on jungle-fruit, even showing the particular trees.

TURTUR TIGRINUS (Temm.). The Spotted Dove.

This Dove is exceedingly plentiful throughout the west of the peninsula, where its plaintive cooing is one of the most noticeable of bird-sounds, both away from civilization, and also in the gardens of the Settlements. It is easily tamed, and a common cage-bird among the Malays.

It appears to be almost identical with the Chinese Spotted Dove (*T. chinensis*), which swarms throughout South China. I shot several on the mainland near Hong Kong; and the only difference I could see between them and the Malay race was that they were slightly larger, and had the under tail-coverts *ash-grey* instead of white.

A male of the Chinese species which I shot on the Kowloon Hills, near Hong Kong, on 1st June, was $12\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, irides dark brown, surrounded by an orange ring, legs dull scarlet.

GEOPELIA STRIATA (Linn.). The Barred Ground-Dove.

This miniature Turtle Dove seems to be rather uncommon in the wild, unfrequented parts of the peninsula, apparently preferring inhabited and cultivated districts.

In Singapore it is common on the low, swampy ground, being particularly plentiful among the Chinamen's gardens in the Mount-Echo, Cluny, and other well-watered valleys in the neighbourhood of Tanglin, where it probably breeds—not that I ever found a nest, but have shot the birds at all seasons. As a rule they keep in pairs, never associating in flocks; at least such is my experience.

Throughout the Straits' Settlements the Sand-Dove, as it is called locally, is much in request among the natives as a cage-bird, being easily-tamed. I cannot say how it got its name of Sand-Dove, unless on account of its grey plumage, my Malay syce had one which, on his approaching its cage, expressed its delight most demonstratively, fluttering its wings and cooing loudly, while a stranger made it wild with fear.

CHALCOPHAPS INDICA (Linn.). The Bronze-winged Dove.

Apparently identical with the Indian bird. It is distributed

throughout the west of the peninsula. I found it fairly plentiful in Perak, and while stationed there kept several in my aviary, where they thrive on rice and Indian corn, in a short time becoming very tame.

On account of their beautiful plumage and the ease with which they are tamed, they are in considerable request as cage-birds, and find a ready sale in all the Settlements.

Among the Malays they go by the name of the "bodos" (fool) Pigeon ; and if the native account of the way they are caught be true, the name is well deserved.

According to one of the Malaccan bird-catchers, after having discovered a place frequented by these Doves, generally an open space near high jungle, he concealed himself in a small hut of boughs, and scattered rice on the ground all round him ; in a short time the birds flew down to feed on the grain, and settled so close to his hiding-place that, quietly putting out his hand, he was able to catch them one after another, the sudden and strange disappearance of one of their number not in the least alarming the others.

Their note is a low cooing.

PAVO MUTICUS, Linn. The Burmese Peafowl.

Not uncommon in the north, but rarely met with in the southern half of the peninsula ; and though I saw a fine cock which had been shot at Cape Romania, opposite the island of Singapore, it was probably only a straggler, possibly a bird which had escaped from captivity. Anyhow, with this exception, I never heard of a Peacock being obtained so far south.

I believe they are plentiful in Kedah ; and near Kwala Kangsar, in Perak, I once saw, but was unable to shoot, two Peafowl.

"7th May, 1877. This evening, at dusk, I was lying in wait, in a swampy ravine with steep jungly banks, for a large boar which frequented the place.

"Daylight had almost faded away ; and the stillness was broken only by the weird jungle-noises which commence as darkness comes on. In a few minutes more it would have been too dark to shoot ; and I was just thinking of making a

move, when close behind me a Peafowl uttered its wild and, under the circumstances, startling cries ; and the next moment two large birds flew overhead, and settled among the trees on the opposite side of the ravine. At the same time I heard a rustling in the bushes, which was probably caused by the boar, warned by the Peafowls' cries that all was not safe.

"Clambering up the sides of the ravine, I got within thirty yards of the birds before they rose, but, having only a rifle with me, was unable, in that light, to secure one. Still there was very little doubt as to what they were."

ARGUSA GIGANTEUS (Temm.). The Argus Pheasant.

This magnificent bird cannot be rare in the interior of the country, as numbers are snared and brought into the Settlements by the Malays ; but it is so shy, and frequents such dense jungle, that it is very seldom seen. Personally I never saw it wild—though while in Perak I had several brought alive to me by the natives, also when at Malacca I saw the skins of some which had been obtained near Mount Ophir.

During January 1877 I spent a few days in a boat on the upper reaches of the Perak river, shooting and collecting. One afternoon, not very far from Campong, Sengan, I landed, and striking inland a few hundred yards, came to a small marsh, round its edges shooting a great many Golden Plover (*Charadrius fulvus*), Lapwing (*Lobivanellus atronuchalis*), and Snipe (*Gallinago stenura*).

While busy shooting, the banging of my gun attracted some Malays, who came to me, bringing with them a Crested Partridge (*Rollulus roulboul*) and a splendid male Argus Pheasant, both having been but lately snared, as the nooses were still hanging to their legs ; but its captors had spoiled the beauty of the latter by pulling out its long delicately-marked tail-feathers and sticking them in their head-handkerchiefs. For 75 cents (about three shillings) I got both the birds, with a small monkey and wicker cage thrown in, the latter ingeniously made by splitting a bamboo and spreading the split pieces out into an extinguisher-shape.

On getting back to Kwala Kangsar I turned the Pheasant

into my aviary, where it did exceedingly well, becoming as tame as a barn-door fowl, and running to the door of the aviary when I approached, to take food almost from my hand. On leaving the country I gave this bird to Mr. Hugh Low, H.B.M. Resident, and about two months later heard from him that twice it had escaped into the jungle and had been given up as lost, but on each occasion, after remaining away for about twenty-four hours, it had returned and walked into its cage.

I think this incident worthy of notice, having often heard that the Argus Pheasant is very difficult to tame.

Once or twice I received information that some of these Pheasants had been shot; but on investigation the birds always turned out to be Peacock-Pheasants (*Polyplectron bicalcaratum*); and I never heard of an Argus being obtained with the gun.

Besides in Perak, I got specimens from near Taeping, in Larut, and from Malacca—at the latter place a sovereign (5 dollars) being the regular charge for a skin.

While in camp at Kwala Kangsar, we had Argus Pheasants cooked on several occasions, and found them capital eating.

POLYPLECTRON BICALCARATUM (Linn.). The Malayan Peacock-Pheasant.

Not rare in the uninhabited parts of the peninsula; the natives snared and brought several to our camp at Kwala Kangsar, and told me that they were very plentiful about two days' journey further up the river. Those in my aviary never became tame, hiding directly any one approached; but they thrived remarkably well, feeding on rice and Indian corn.

ALECTROPHASIS ERYTHROPHthalmus (Raffl.). The Rufous-tailed Pheasant.

I had one of these Pheasants in my aviary at Kwala Kangsar; it flourished and became fairly tamed. It fed on rice and Indian corn. I got it from the native who had snared it. There were specimens in the Museum, also in the Botanic Gardens at Singapore.

EUPLOCAMUS VIEILLIOTI. The Fire-backed Pheasant.

A magnificent bird, common in Perak, particularly towards the north. While at Kwala Kangsar, I had them frequently brought in by the Malays, and kept several, both males and females, in my aviary for several months.

They did well in captivity, becoming tame, and feeding on boiled rice, plantains, jack-fruit, and Indian corn.

[To be continued.]

XLI.—*Ornithological Letters from the Pacific*.—VIII. *New Britain*. By OTTO FINSCH, Ph.D., C.M.Z.S., &c.

THE discovery of novelties by explorers must depend chiefly on what is already known of the country proposed to be explored. The traveller who has the good fortune to be the first in a new country will easily find new species. I visited a good many islands in the South Seas, of which the avifaunæ were little, if at all, known; but they were very poor, and yielded little more than sea-birds and widely distributed species. When I came to such a promising country as New Britain, I arrived too late. I do not complain; for the personality of the discoverer is immaterial to science, and the name of the Rev. George Brown will be known for ever as that of the first explorer of New Britain, New Ireland, and especially the Duke-of-York group, where, under his superintendence, the mission has existed since 1875. From the influence resulting from his post, and from the means he had to depend on, it was moreover easier for him than for any body else to make extensive collections. He had a lot of teachers at his command to collect for him on different spots in the country, and was himself able to visit the different stations, for which purpose a small steamer was provided. Thus mission work and collecting specimens were easily combined. Before Mr. Brown came, I believe, not more than a dozen birds were known from these islands. These were discovered by the French naturalists, and were chiefly from New Ireland. In accordance with this condition of things it was not surprising